

Christmas

December 29, 2024
St. John's Church

Welcome

We are so happy you are with us.

All you need to worship with us is in this bulletin. Please greet the person near you, stand and sit as you are comfortable, and bring your voice and heart to the service. We say the words printed in bold together.

Christmastide

Today is the First Sunday after Christmas and we continue to worship and sing in the words and spirit of this major feast day.

The season of Christmas begins on December 24 at sunset, the beginning of the day in the Hebrew tradition. This is why churches generally have evening or midnight services for Christmas Eve. Christmas itself lasts **twelve days**.

Twelve Days of Christmas – yep, that is what the song is about. Amazon.com and other giant retailers have encouraged an erroneous assumption that the Twelve Days end on Christmas Day and must therefore begin on December 14. Not so. The Twelve Days do not come before Christmas day, they begin on Christmas Day, and end on January 5.

Christmastide is twelve days in which to celebrate, perhaps more reflectively than in ages past, the great gift of God that comes to us in the sweet, beguiling form of an infant.

Last Minute Gifts

Looking for good places to donate before January 31st?

We could still use a few bucks for the glass crusher, which should be up and running in early 2025. And the food pantry can stretch a donation carefully to feed the hungry – talk to Sue Woods.

Cheri Mateo will carry a check to the women's shelter, Geoff Baumann is on the library board, Laura Greathouse will get a check to Homesteader Roots to support tree planting here in town, and Jane Woods represents Plaza Diane.

Ministers

Altar Guild	Barb Morales
Sound	Oscar Trevino
Hospitality Greeter	Mary Dillivan
Liturgy Greeter	Kathy Riley
Musicians	Tom & Kathy Walker Kasandra Fell & Cheri Mateo
Worship Leader	Steve Nickles
Reader	Deb Ross
Preacher	Diana Anderson
Intercessor	Kim Dillivan
Presider	Megan Nickles
Communion Servers	Barb Morales Jim Morales
Communion Bread	Jen Litterer-Trevino
Coffee Hour	Doug & Lynda Ramier

Prayers

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church
Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Diocesan Standing Committee, Diocesan Staff;
Katharine Jefferts Schori, Assisting Bishop;
Wyoming Daughters of the King/Episcopal Church Women

Kay & Don; Cynthia & Martin,
Paul & Gaylene, Cece & Frida;
Chris & Terri; Tim & Alex; Andre & Syd;
Don, Deb & Donna; Bob & Charlotte;
Kenny & Michael; Richard & Jennifer;
Carolyn & Family; Lee & Kelly;
Hunter, Charlotte & Mike;
Hugh B. & Marge; Margie & Josey;
Tim & Lynnae; Bobbi & Bentley

Jim, Mary Ellen, Laurel, Braxton,
Gail, Joey, Patty, Don J., Cynthia W.,
Mary, Katy, Tuti Rosita, Marlynn,
Douglas, Mickey, Mike G., Carra,
Rob R., Kathy E., Tammy, Bobby B.,
Cynthia G., Larry, Irene, Nancy, Sue,
Kahli, Ron and Jane.
Bennett, Daryn, Justin, Jacob,
Patrick, Reece, Coleman, and Bryce
who are serving in the military.

Celebrations

Birthday: Margaret Clabaugh—30th, Jim McEvoy—Jan. 1st

Anniversary: Frank Dulin & John Cordner—Jan. 1st; Cynthia & Martin Garhart—Jan. 3

Prelude

“Wait For The Lord,” Taizé Community Choir.

Hymn Verses 1-3, and 5

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may, re
 2. In Beth - le - hem in Ju - dah this bless - ed babe was born, and
 3. From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came, and
 4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind, and
 5. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place, and

5 Mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born this Christ - mas day, to save us all from
 laid with - in a man - ger up - on this bless - ed morn: for which his moth - er
 un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same, how that in Beth - le -
 left their flocks a - feed - ing in tem - pest, storm, and wind, and went to Beth - le -
 with true love and broth - er - hood each oth - er now em - brace; this ho - ly tide of

10 Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 Ma - ry did noth - ing take in scorn.
 hem was born the Son of God by name. O tid - ings of com - fort and
 hem straight - way, the bless - ed babe to find.
 Christ - mas all oth - ers doth de - face.

Refrain

15 joy, com - fort and joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Congregation: Unison and Parts

WORDS: Traditional English carol, 18th cent.
 MUSIC: Traditional English melody

GOD REST YOU MERRY
 Irr. with Refrain

Gather

Living God, on this holy day we gather—
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love,
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory,
to welcome children into our family.

May the good news of Christmas inspire us
to tell the world of our great joy:
for to us is born a Savior,
the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory and praise to you forever!
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of grace and truth,

**whose word brings light to birth in the heart of a darkening world
which fears a love it cannot name:**

may flesh be blessed and born anew

by a truth which leaves the heavens and

walks the waiting earth;

through Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate.

Amen.

Scripture

After the reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Prayers

God of steadfast love,
we thank you in this joyful Christmastide
for all the blessings we enjoy:
the shelter of home and the comfort of family and friends;
the company of the faithful with whom we celebrate Christ's coming;
and for your love, which shines as a light in the darkness.
For these and many other blessings besides, we offer our thanks and praise.

God of mercy,
in this holy season, there are people in need of your tender mercies:
we pray for those who are ill and for those who are recovering;
for those whose sadness is made heavier
by memories of Christmases past or by some present pain.

We pray for those who do not have enough:
enough food, enough money, enough companionship, enough hope.
Because there is not yet peace on earth, we pray for those in harm's way.
Protect them from war, violence, and cruel oppression.
For these and many other needs, we offer our intercessions.

God of hope,
through long ages, you have given to your people dreams
and a vision of the time when there will be no more war,
no more pain or sorrow, no more death.
We pray this day for the time to be fulfilled,
when we will be reconciled to one another, to all creation, to you.

Fill us with hope as we wait upon your coming realm.
Give us the will to work for justice and peace
and the courage to follow you into every place.
We thank you for dreamers and visionaries
who respond with imagination and joy
to what you are doing in the church and in the world.
We entrust ourselves and those we love to your care.
In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never smother it.

I believe that on a night in Bethlehem
there was born a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.

I believe in the Word who has become incarnate,
our very flesh and blood,
yet full of grace and truth.

I believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God,
that is for the happiness of all people.

I believe in his name as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace;
of the increase of his rule and of his unique peace,
there will be no end.

The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.

This I surely believe!

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

We may greet one another in the name of God.

Invitation to the Offering

Rejoice! For I bring good news and great joy to all people:
today is born to you a Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

Music

“I Waited,” William Batstone.

Eucharist

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In every time and in every place,
it is right that we should give you thanks and honor,
for you shelter your people from age to age.

You came to us as a brother and a friend,
in a likeness we could recognize as one of our own,
showing us the face of the Most High God.

Through the centuries, your witnesses have taught and proclaimed your Word,
giving shape to the truth that your promises are sure
and your presence everlasting.

In communion with all the saints, with angels and shepherds,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry, Ho - san - na, ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is
he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, author of time, one among us, breath of our bodies,
 you are as close to us as skin and infinite as stars.
 You came to us as Jesus of Nazareth, child born in a cave, a carpenter and a rabbi,
 who on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying,
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith.



Text: ICEL, © 1973
 Music: *Do This in Memory of Me*, David Haas, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

Life giving God, as your word came flesh and lived among us,
 come among us now in the fullness of your grace and truth.
 Make us holy as you are holy, that your word they become flesh anew today.
 Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine
 and make them be for us the body and blood of Jesus.

Bless us with your presence,
 and let your Holy Spirit infuse our hearts and minds with joy
 so that we may live to praise you, O God,
 holy Trinity, now and forever. **AMEN.**



Music: *Do This in Memory of Me*, David Haas, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

Lord's Prayer

As our Savior taught us, we now pray.
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The leader breaks the consecrated bread.
Alleluia! He is born.
Christ the Lord is born this day.
The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us
full of grace and truth.
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion

Please come to the table, whether you are single, married or divorced, drinking, using or sober, abled, disabled, or ill, gay, straight, or discovering, wealthy, getting by or in debt. Christ meets us all.

We approach the altar beginning with those sitting in the last rows; they shall be first. Approach the rail from the left aisle and take a cup; used cups go on the tray on the right. You may receive only bread or only wine. Our Eucharistic bread is handmade and robust. If you prefer a wafer, please tell your server.

Receiving the bread and wine is a central act of worship in the Episcopal Church.

Music

“O Little Town of Bethlehem,” Phillip Brooks.

“Breath of Heaven,” Chris Eaton, Amy Grant.

Prayer of Thanks

We stand.

Let us pray.

God our Father,

you have made known to us again

the coming of Jesus Christ:

confirm our faith

and fix our eyes on him

until the day dawns

and Christ the Morning Star

rises in our hearts.

To him be glory

both now and for ever.

Amen.

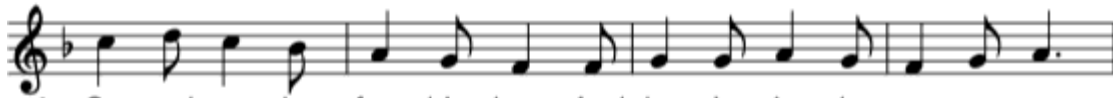
Hymn



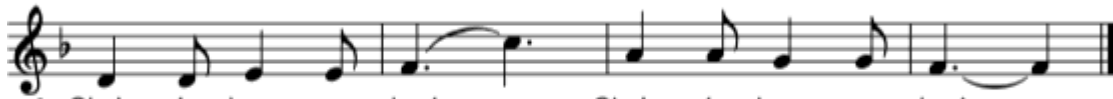
1-3. Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice, With heart and soul and voice;



1. Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day!
2. Now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
3. Now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



1. Ox and ass be - fore him bow, And he is in the man-ger now.
2. He has o - pened heav - en's door, And we are blest for ev - er - more.
3. Calls you one and calls you all, To gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



1. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
2. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: 66 77 78 55; Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Music: J. Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1535.

Sending

Go now, glorifying and praising God
for all you have heard and seen.
We go in peace to love and serve,
in the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia!

Postlude

"I Saw Three Ships," Sting.